

Civic Committee Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2012

Present: Mick Fitzharris, Valerie Hutchinson, Rodney Jester, David Claney (guest), Albert Marks, Rodney Jester, Tom Wheeler, Ed Rohrbach, Ron Meick (guest) and David Claney (guest).

The meeting was convened at 7:11 pm (delayed split meeting. Half group in one room and half in another)

Co Chaired: Tom Wheeler and Ed Rohrbach.

(Rodney) Tom and Rod planted a Maple, previously donated by Rod, over weekend to replace the one cut down for the solar panels on the BWVC. It needs water once a week.

(Tom) Ruth Panella would like to know why there has been no street cleaning. (Rodney) Because cost high and we need to save money. We decided to obtain pricing again. We will revisit it.

Snow Plowing Discussion:

(Tom) Policy to plow if three inches of snow. Not to plow if less than three inches. We need to review policy since we have been asked to do so. (David Claney): Expressed concerns of exposure to lawsuit regardless of policy. We need to say more than we have a policy.

(Ed Rohrbach): The town can plow and people can still fall down and get hurt.

Jointly agreed what we should do at the snow in question.

(David Claney): Dramatic difference in decision to plow between the three Ardens.

(Rodney Jester) Yes and we can't win them all.

(Rodney) Bad call on our part. Strange occurrence and it iced up real fast. Sometimes no matter what call you make you can't please everyone.

Burslems have had the plowing contract for a long time and they plow automatically if it is three inches or more.

(Ed) Weather forecast was turn to rain and rain for a long time. We went by the weather forecast.

What about following Del Dot actions? They have a completely different philosophy on it. When there is a forecast they salt before it even starts.

Generally we are in better shape than Del Dot areas.

(Ed) Should we change our policy?

(Rodney) No. We need be more vigilantMaybe err on the side of caution.

(Al Marks) Our record is outstanding.

Tree Discussion:

(Valerie Hutchinson) There is a tree limb hanging over Lower lane. Is that us, (Civic committee), safety committee, or forest committee responsibility to take care of?

(Tom Wheeler) Probably we should take a look of it.

(Valarie) Cherry tree was planted by the Shakespeare Gild at the Field theater in memorial for Betty Solway Smith. It is beautiful. Thank you Rodney and thank you Albert.

Mosquitoes spraying discussion:

(Ron Mieke) Ron expressed concern for his bees. As a beekeeper spray is toxic.

Tom is in contact with DNREC . Read email as follows:

From: "Meredith William H. (DNREC)" <William.Meredith@state.de.us>
Date: April 2, 2012 11:09:46 AM EDT
To: "Moran Thomas (DNREC)" <Thomas.Moran@state.de.us>
Cc: "wheelhouseteam@verizon.net" <wheelhouseteam@verizon.net>, "Short Bryon (LegHall)" <Bryon.Short@state.de.us>, "Cathy Cloutier " <CloutierCathy@aol.com>, "Brinson Kimberly A. (DNREC)" <Kimberly.Brinson@state.de.us>
Subject: RE: Municipality of Arden Civic committee question- Mosquito control vs the Honey Bee-

TOM – this is within your upstate Mosquito Control region's jurisdiction. Please contact Mr. Wheeler and let him know how the Mosquito Control Section safely works around beekeeping issues or concerns, including our operational protocols with the Delaware Beekeepers Association (which has both commercial and "hobbyist" beekeepers as members), and with the Delaware Dept. of Agriculture too.

Also please let me know how much Arden ever avails itself of, or has had need for, the State's mosquito control services that are provided at no cost to Delaware's municipalities (particularly in this case relative to any Arden town officials' past requests for relief from biting adult mosquito populations), in order to help us better gauge from the State's perspective the best use and allocation of our program's limited operational resources.

Additionally, please provide me with an overview of any mosquito larvae production levels within Arden that our inspectors might have found to be problematic in the past, thereby possibly warranting some larviciding on our part, or our possibly having to educate/inform Arden businesses and residents to practice better water sanitation on their properties.

Thanks!

Cheers, BILL

(Tom Wheeler) DNREC is sympathetic to that and is aware there are two beekeepers in the Ardens. We can request them to avoid spraying your street.

Tom sent an email to Moran who said let's talk about it.

(Ed) It is just not harmful to bees, it does not discriminate.

At the town meeting Lynda Kolski mentioned chemicals.

(Tom) This William Meredith he is head of this particular aspect

(Ed) I have a birdbath full of water. Mosquitos' larva forms within ten days. However, five days there are no larva.

(Rodney) Way back when, the state just came around and sprayed if the mosquitoes were really bad. Good long breeze keep mosquitoes from biting.

Purple martins consume great quantities of mosquitoes. The green can support some purple martin bird houses. There is no guarantee the purple martins will move in.

(Rodney) Town said you will spray and we are working with DNREC. It is part of a learning curve. Town voted a certain way and that is our assignment.

(Ed) We are directed to follow through.

(Tom) We are mandated to use the state program. We are in contact with the state and they are aware we have bees.

Road white lines

(Valerie) Valerie has not heard back from Brian Short about the white lines located at Harvey Road and Lower Lane. No break in white line and dangerous curve.

(Tom) DelDot 's mistake.

(Val) It has been six weeks since I called. Tom offered to follow up with Brian Short.

Power lines and tree cutting:

(Valerie) Severe chopping of trees.

(Ron) As ugly as it is now, it will grow in quickly.

(Ron) We are one of a lot of communities up here. We are not the only ones using those power lines.

(David) When you have that amount of tree growth around the power lines it sucks the power out of them. It costs a lot more.

(Ed) It bleeds off the current.

Painted Street Signs in Arden

Missed one street sign located Hillside and Millers. Need to paint it.

Next meeting is scheduled Tuesday, May 1, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Resko

Secretary, Village of Arden.